

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 55

October 2008

No. 8



Calendar

Sat., Sept. 20	Community Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 9)	Tues., Oct. 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm (p 9); <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 3 pm
Wed., Sept. 24	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, setbacks (see p 4)	Wed., Oct. 15	Fall membership meeting of the Swimming Pool, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sun., Sept. 28	Newcomers' Welcome (Citizens Assoc.), Town Hall, 1 pm	Thurs., Oct. 16	Casual Musicians club jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., Oct. 2	Work session, modernization of GPES, 3:30 pm at the school (see p 4); Casual Musicians club jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Fri., Oct. 17	Film Society, <i>Election</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 9)
Sat., Oct. 4	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm; large item pickup	Tues., Oct. 21	Work session, modernization of GPES, 7 pm at the school
Thurs., Oct. 9	Garrett Park Women's Club, Town Hall, 7:30-9 pm; holiday appetizer recipes	Wed., Oct. 22	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Oct. 11	Attic in the Street Sale, Kenilworth Ave. south, 10 am-2 pm (see p 6)	Fri., Oct. 31	School Costume Parade (afternoon), Trick or Treating by schoolchildren at dusk
Mon., Oct. 13	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Nov. 1	Spooky Woods (see p 4); Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 9)
		Sun., Nov. 2	GIVES Soup Supper, Town Hall (see p 6)

Continuing Controversy over Setbacks

If you don't have access to the Internet or you've been away for most of the summer, consider yourself part of a special category of Garrett Parkers: the lucky ones. Since August, the wires have been burning up with a contentious—and sometimes downright nasty—debate about zoning in our town.

As you may recall, the town is being sued by a Clermont Avenue family, the Martins, who were denied a building permit for a front porch. The new structure would have violated, by a small amount, the town's setback law, which currently governs the amount of open space on a lot. Apparently believing that an appeal for a vari-

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Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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ance would be fruitless, the Martins filed suit, seeking to invalidate many portions of the town's zoning ordinances. So, why did they not seek a variance? (A variance is the last legal option under Garrett Park statute, an option the judge in the Martins' lawsuit subsequently instructed them to seek. They have not yet done so.)

Garrett Park requires that there be an unusual characteristic to the lot, in terms of shape, size, or the fact that it's bordered by two streets. In this case, there was no apparent uniqueness. The other two considerations are judgment calls: Applicants must demonstrate unusual practical difficulty or undue hardship, if their variance is not granted. Neither of those factors is evident in this case. Yet it is in the variance process that historically the Council has several times used the subjective criteria of "difficulty" and "hardship" to the benefit of residents, up to and including altering ordinances.

The case, then, settles around Garrett Park's zoning laws, which have been on the books since 1992. They are more stringent than those of Montgomery County. Were the court to strike down Garrett Park's laws, the Martins would, one assumes, then have clear path to their porch.

According to Mayor Keller, in the course of oral arguments, the judge in the Martin case independently raised an issue of why the town's zoning ordinances were not in accordance with a recently altered state law, which now specifies how lot coverage should be calculated. In order to avoid legal briefs and a hearing on that issue, said the Mayor, the Council would consider passage of a revised setback ordinance. The Council, in August, held a special meeting on that issue. The current statute specifies the amount of open space on a lot as 82 percent. The new ordinance would specify that a house could cover 18 percent of the lot. Simple, right? Just an inverse. Not in Garrett Park. The new ordinance, as proposed, delineated everything that would be included in the lot coverage calculation, including decks, sheds, bay windows, etc. Those are calculations that have traditionally been taken into account by the town's setback advisory committee, even though they are not spelled out in the ordinance.

The August meeting was held simply to introduce the new ordinance, which would then be debated in September. Nonetheless, the house was full, and the meeting was ugly. Residents suggested the meeting was "yet another" attempt by the Mayor and Council to enact a restrictive law when no one was paying attention. At one point, a resident hurled an anatomical epithet at another, which was countered by an invitation to "take it outside." Many who spoke alleged that the Council and Mayor were not concerned about the welfare of the town but were simply seeking to invalidate the Martins' suit. Others stood to praise a group of volunteers trying to walk the tenuous path between neighborliness and elective

office. At one point in the evening, the Martins' attorney attempted to address the Council and was quickly rebuffed. (Even as someone whose legal experience comes from watching old *Perry Mason* reruns, it was clear to me that plaintiff's counsel should not address the defendants without their attorney present—regardless of the forum.)

Fast forward to the September meeting and the formal debate of the new ordinance. Mayor Keller was in no mood for fighting. He insisted on ground rules of civility for all of the many citizen presentations that followed. For the most part, the debate was appropriately serious and free of invective—although the issues were largely a rerun of the August discussions.

Ultimately, the Council opted to spend the evening listening to citizens, and it postponed for a month any action on the new zoning ordinance. It did, however, vote unanimously to accept a "sense of the Council" resolution proposed by Jack Mandel that it amend the new zoning ordinance to remove all of the deck, shed, and bay window specifics. Presumably, both that amendment and the full ordinance will be voted on in October.

So what's the bottom line here? After watching the debate for several months, there are a few conclusions it seems possible to make, without taking sides:

1. Garrett Park has too many lawyers—or not enough. We're not sure.
2. Many town residents seem to believe the Council is a neighborhood association and not what it is: a municipality's legislative body.
3. It will not be possible to openly discuss the town's zoning laws while Councilmembers and the Mayor are defendants in a lawsuit.
4. Once the lawsuit is settled, dropped, or decided, the town needs to carefully—and respectfully—look at these issues.
5. All politics may be local, but issues that affect our entire town should not be made personal.

Richard Folkers

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$15 (first class) or \$13 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Large Item Pickup. The fall large item collection will take place on Saturday, October 4.

Regular Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Collection. Remember, when a Monday or Thursday is a major holiday (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas),

- *trash* collection resumes the following scheduled collection day,
- *recycling* will be collected on Tuesday after a Monday holiday, and
- *yard waste* will be collected on Thursday after a Monday holiday. Remember, in November, yard waste goes to a monthly collection schedule on the first Monday of the month.

Driveway and Parking Pad Permits. Please remember, if you are planning to alter your driveway or install a parking pad in front of your house, you are going to impact town property, and you must file for a permit with the Town Office. Call 301-933-7488 if you have questions.

Be Prepared. September is National Preparedness Month, and it is important to remember that a certain degree of self-reliance is usually necessary after a major catastrophe. It is recommended that each household should have at least three days' worth of water, food, and other essentials on hand at all times. For safety, avoid candles and oil lamps and get battery-powered emergency lights instead. For more information on how best to prepare for the worst, visit www.makeaplan.org or call 866-788-PLAN.

Community Security and Personal Safety. From time to time, incidents in our area remind us that we need to be aware of what is going on in our neighborhoods and as we travel about, and that *homes should be securely locked at all times*. Long-time residents will remember fondly the days when houses were not locked, when delivery people would leave groceries or other items on the kitchen table—I certainly do. Those days are no longer with us. If you notice suspicious activity or have general concerns about your own security, contact the Montgomery County Police

at the nonemergency number, 301-279-8000, and they will immediately dispatch an officer to check on the situation. If you feel that you or someone else is threatened in any way, call 911.

Leaf Raking and Yard Work Assistance. Any young people in town who would like to offer their services to help residents with fall yard work may contact Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office (301-933-7488) to add their names to the list we keep.

A Personal Note. September is my anniversary month. I began my service to the town six years ago. The time has passed quickly. I would like to thank my colleagues, Elizabeth, Barbara, Butch, Frank, and Jose for their support, cooperation, and hard work. I would also like to thank the Mayors and Councilmembers I have worked with for their guidance and assistance, and finally, I would like all town residents to know how much I have appreciated the friendliness and courtesy that have been extended to me every day in so many ways. I look forward to the years ahead!

Ted Pratt
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Pull Tabs for Charity

I have been collecting aluminum pull tabs, which I contribute to Rovi Faber, executive director of "Pull Tabs for Charity." She donates the money that she receives for these pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House & National Cancer Institute (NIC) Research Protocols. Rovi began this charity in 2004 in memory of her daughter Jodyann, who died of cancer at 46. Rovi has a Web site: www.pulltabsforcharity.org.

I have placed a pink and white collection canister in the post office. As I walked through Garrett Park on Monday, I couldn't help but notice the number of tabs that could be donated to this cause (and yes, I did pull some tabs from recycle bins). If you would rather, call me or drop your tabs (in a plastic bag) at my front porch at 11006 Kenilworth Avenue.

Dave Almy

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Citizens Association News

At 8 pm on Wednesday, September 24, the GPCA will host a meeting to encourage continued conversation on the town's proposed new setback ordinance. All points of view are welcome to this discussion. Please contact Chris Strong with any thoughts or comments on how to make this an effective meeting for the town.

Upcoming Events

Newcomers' Reception. The annual Newcomers' Reception will be held on September 28, from 3 to 5 pm at the Town Hall, and all residents are invited. We extend a warm invitation to families who have moved into town over the past year. Come meet your new neighbors and find out about everything that's going on in town. "Old timers" are encouraged to join us and share information about Garrett Park. Light refreshments will be provided.

Spooky Woods. At dusk on Saturday, November 1, the GPCA will be hosting the Spooky Woods. Kids of all ages are invited to join us in Porcupine Woods to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Little ones can walk through a less scary version ahead of the older kids. Meet on the basketball court by the Post Office, where light refreshments will be provided. Volunteer ghouls are needed. To help, please contact Matt Stavish by telephone or by e-mail.

Election Night Party. Come join your neighbors in a nonpartisan setting on November 4 at 8 pm at the Town Hall to watch the returns on this historic night for our nation. Light refreshments and heavy politics will be served.

Garrett Park Listserv

Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/.

Comments for the Citizens Association?

If you have questions or comments for the Citizens Association, please send a note to PO Box 456 or e-mail either Matt Stavish or Chris Strong.

GPES

Are there any adults out there who would be able to give one hour a week on Tuesdays to volunteer to be a buddy to one child in the Homework Club? The club is made up by grade level, and the students who come with their homework can use encouragement and sometimes explanations. Call the principal, Mrs. Chang-Baxter, at the school (301-929-2170) if you are willing and will be available during the school year.

The school is earning cash again in various ways this year. Giant Food, Safeway On-line shopping, and Office Depot will support the school with different programs. Check with the individual stores. We are also collecting "Box Tops for Education" labels this year. Clip them and send them into the office.

Three teachers are currently pregnant and will be taking leaves of absence throughout the year. Congratulations to Mrs. Down, Mrs. Lucas, and Mrs. Russ.

For the safety and security of the school, please be sure to sign in at the main office and receive a sticker to wear. Any one who enters the building must be accounted for in case of a fire drill or emergency.

MCPS is about to conduct the design process for the modernization (that is, the tearing down and rebuilding) of the school. There are work session meetings scheduled in the afternoons and evenings to allow maximum community involvement, which includes neighbors, the Civic Association, the Town Council, and PTA members, as well as others. The dates are Thursday, October 2, at 3:30 pm; Tuesday, October 21 at 7 pm; Thursday, November 13 at 3:30 pm; and Tuesday, December 2 at 7 pm. All meetings will be held at the school.

Mary Moyer

Green Again

Our thanks this month go to Pam Morgan, who gave us a \$37 donation last February to pay for this month's banner. If you would care to join her, send a \$37 check made out to the Citizens Association to PO Box 98. We are solvent until March 2009!

Have you paid your dues yet? The Newcomers' Welcome is right around the corner! Mail your family's dues to Box 456 as soon as possible.

Mary Moyer

Wanted

Persons with theatrical tendencies. Join a group to produce a program based on materials from the Town Archives. Timid? Afraid to speak in public? Come help to "package" our town history into materials to share with your neighbors. Surely you are curious about our past. Call Barbara Shidler.

Thanks

Long-time residents of Garrett Park (since 1952), the Henleys on Kenilworth Avenue suffered extensive house damage in a fire on June 23. Thankfully no one was hurt, but the house will have to be razed and rebuilt. The Henleys extend their deep appreciation to the many GP residents who have helped in a variety of ways, most especially Erica, Judy, and Jack Sugar, Jenny and Hannah Krivanek, Molly Shuck, Karen Cole, Kay Hager, Sharon Timko, MJ Gill, and the Bronez-Lewis family. We appreciate the outpouring of concern and support, which has been overwhelming and comforting.

Elizabeth Henley

The Town's Open Space Ordinance

I have already written several electronic letters on the topic of the town's open space ordinance. Consequently, I will keep this letter brief:

- The lawsuit against the town. There have been repeated claims that the sole purpose of the lawsuit is to have the town's open space ordinance interpreted "as it is currently written." Not true. The lawsuit seeks to invalidate the town's entire open space ordinance. The pleading versus the town states that "The Town of Garrett Park failed to follow the predicated statutory procedural requirements ... As such, those provisions of the Town Code are illegal, *ultra vires* and void, and accordingly the Martins ask this Court to declare them as such." In short, if the Court agrees with the Martins, the town will be stripped of its own open space ordinance—one that has worked well for the town for the last 16 years.
- The proposed ordinance. At the September 8 Council meeting, the Council indicated that it intends to revise the draft proposed ordinance to strip it of clarifications regarding what is included in the 18 percent lot coverage provision. In short, the proposed ordinance would no longer specify that porches, decks, steps, stoops, and bay windows be included in the measurement calculation. Assuming the Council follows through on this pledge, there would be no substantive difference between the current and proposed ordinance. The purpose of the change is to ensure the legal viability of the ordinance consistent with recent changes in state law.
- Rush to the courts. The Martins state that, based on discussions with town officials and the Setback Committee, they were discouraged from requesting a variance. However, only one entity—the Council itself—can approve a variance (or modify the ordinance). But the Martins never requested a variance. Rather, they opted for a lawsuit on the very

day their building permit was denied. In my view, even if cumbersome, it is preferable to seek other remedies first. Other Garrett Park residents have reached compromises with the Council on their variance requests without resorting to legal action.

I hope that a settlement can be reached between the Martins and the town. Settlement or no settlement, the proposed ordinance (including the changes the Council is in the process of making) should be enacted to ensure that the town has an operative open space ordinance, consistent with current state law. After enactment of the proposed ordinance, the town can and should engage in a longer term evaluation of changes to the open space ordinance—whether those changes make it more strict, more permissive, or clarify the way the ordinance has been applied.

Ken Schwartz

Disagreement over Setbacks

I am compelled to reply to Mayor Keller's July 2008 *Bugle* letter and the recent proposed change to our building code. The lawsuit relates to the construction of an expanded front porch on a 1950's split-level home. No other exterior construction to expand the home was requested or undertaken. The Mayor states that the applicants were notified of an administrative appeal. At the August Council meeting, however, the Mayor publicly acknowledged that there is no administrative remedy for a property owner who disagrees with the town's calculations of the combined setback provision. Therefore, the only recourse is through the courts. Mayor Keller's characterization of the lawsuit as "meritless" is misleading. It is obvious that a "meritless" lawsuit would not have led to the proposed change in building ordinance the Council seeks to enact.

While many residents and our County Council were on vacation, the Mayor called a special August meeting. The council introduced a change to its building code, which affects *all* property owners with a more restrictive lot area coverage ordinance. It is now clear that this action was specifically taken to oppose *one* family's expansion of a front porch. The porch addition complies with the County's Garrett Park Overlay Zone 20 percent lot coverage restriction. Moreover, even if the town's combined area setback provision were found to be legal, the porch addition complies with 82 percent minimum combined setback provision law if properly applied as a setback ordinance as it was written. There is a major difference between setback provisions and lot area coverage provisions. Different definitions apply, and there are county exceptions that apply to setbacks. The town's refusal to permit the building of this front porch on a home built before

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1992 does not comport with the stated purpose of our building code and Mayor Keller's statement regarding "the desirability of front porches." The addition of this porch reflects our town's stated desires to keep, rather than demolish, existing homes and to enhance our homes with the front porch we cherish.

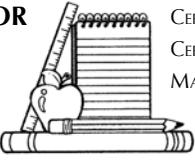
In the town's information sheet posted on its Web site, the town acknowledges that "in 1992, the Town had more limited zoning authority and could only regulate setbacks." That means, since 1992, Garrett Park has enforced a building code that was stricter than it was given authority to enforce. The plain result is that many property owners may have been improperly advised that they did not meet the town's strict zoning ordinance. Harry Gordon's September 7 letter acknowledges this when he uses the words "lot area as open space (this is called combined setback in our ordinances)." As the town's September 4 letter acknowledges, "the parts of a house that are included in calculating how much of the lot it occupies ... does not represent a change from how we've been calculating square footage." There is the rub! It is outrageous that the town interpreted its setback provisions as lot area coverage provisions—when it did not have the authority to do so. This practice needlessly limited the modification of many of our homes. This may have resulted in some homes being torn down and replaced, rather than modified.

The Town Council has chosen to propose an amendment to its ordinance in an attempt to defeat this pending lawsuit. It is unfortunate that the Town Councilmembers have not used this opportunity to craft an amendment that would have allowed the building of a front porch on a house that was built before 1992. This would have stopped any further legal expense and provided for the stated purpose of maintaining our existing homes, while allowing for a reasonable modification. This type of amendment would benefit many homeowners in town.

The proposed ordinance change flies in the face of the county's proposed changes to its building ordinances under Councilmember Berliner's proposals, which would allow "porches, bay windows, chimneys and covered stoops to be encouraged by not including them in lot coverage calculations."

I ask the Town Council to reconsider the proposed ordinance in light of the county's proposal—a proposal that was made after months of study, with input from various community members.

Cynthia Kratz

INDEPENDENT TUTOR BONNIE BOCK 301-564-5705 bonniebock@verizon.net		CERTIFIED LD SPECIALIST K-12 CERTIFIED EL ED TEACHER, 1-8 MATH, ENGLISH, READING
		STUDY SKILLS SSAT PREP

GIVES Soup Supper

Come join your neighbors and friends at the Garrett Park Soup Supper on Sunday, November 2, sponsored by GIVES, our own nonprofit that collects monthly donations to benefit the American Friends Service Committee and the Washington, DC, based Dinner Program for Homeless Women.

Traditionally, town residents bring a favorite homemade soup or bread. The idea is to donate to GIVES the money that might otherwise have been spent on the meal. Many delicious recipes are shared, and no one goes away hungry. The event generates several thousand dollars for families in need, both in our area and around the world.

This year, we suggest that you "think local" in terms of ingredients for your soup. The Farmers Market still comes on Saturdays in the fall; there is also a new organic market in Kensington. Buying locally produced food helps reduce carbon emissions and benefits local growers.

Please call Glenda Ingham or contact Karen Anderson to sign up and bring either soup or bread. Volunteers to help with setup and take-down of the event are needed as well.

Attic in the Street

The Garrett Park Women's Club is pleased to announce the annual Attic in the Street community yard sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to 2 pm. As usual, it will take place on Kenilworth Avenue in front of the Town Hall. To reserve a space, send a check (made out to the GPWC) for \$20 for one space or \$35 for two spaces to the Garrett Park Women's Club, P.O. Box 494, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Also, include your name, phone number, and e-mail address. Updates on the sale will be distributed by e-mail.

The proceeds from the participant fees benefit the Women's Club and (by extension) all of Garrett Park by supporting the town's various annual activities.

For additional information, please contact Celia (Hayes) Peacock.

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Les Henig
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The Post Office staff wishes to suggest to residents that you buy the "Forever" stamps and hold on to them for some time before using them. They have plenty in stock. They also request that you bring back any yellow "package" cards that you have floating around your home. They're running out. And finally, you may wish to buy the Breast Cancer awareness stamps. They cost a little more, since 15¢ goes towards cancer research, and supposedly (if you are really into accounting) you could take off the extra cost as a donation on your taxes.
- ♪ Alex Joseph graduated from WJ as an AP Scholar, and this fall he will attend the University of Montana's Davidson Honors College under a Leadership Achievement and Service Award. Following his time as captain of the WJ ice hockey team, he will be playing on the UM Grizzly hockey team this winter.
- ♪ Chris Moyer was notified in June that he made Dean's List for the spring semester at the University of Maryland. If all goes well, he should graduate in December with a degree in Criminal Justice.
- ♪ Todd and Dawn Harris welcome a fourth girl to the family, born on July 20. As the newest resident in town, she got to meet oldest resident Donal McLaughlin at his birthday party this summer.
- ♪ To donate a computer or printer (that works!), call Nancy Scull. This is a tax deduction, as they will be used for subsidized housing residents.
- ♪ After a stroke in July, Steve Balaban of Keswick is living with his children in Bethesda. Daughter Kay says he is making good progress in his recovery. You may write to him at 7307 Nevis Road, Bethesda, MD 20817.
- ♪ If you have long hair that you are considering getting cut, think about Locks of Love. This is a public, nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss. If you are interested, visit www.locksoflove.org for information.
- ♪ Genevieve Rosloff graduated from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) in May. She has been accepted into the Honors Program at the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, in Washington, DC, where she will begin work as a trial attorney this fall.
- ♪ Did you know that you can recycle clean clothing and other textiles including towels, sheets, drapes, handbags, belts, and cloth pieces at least 15 inches by 15 inches, in plastic bags at the county Transfer Station on Route 355 in Rockville? The goods will be recycled to benefit needy families in the country and people overseas. The Transfer Station is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 8 pm; Saturday, 7:30 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm. This is also where you take your car oil, turpentine, and oil-based paint for recycling.
- ♪ A Garrett Park girl placed first among Maryland sixth graders in the "Fight the Bite" contest sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the DEET Education Program. She submitted a poster to raise awareness of insect diseases. As a state winner, she received a \$50 savings bond and a certificate of appreciation. (See the winning posters at www.fightthebitecontest.org/FB_PosterWinners.html.)
- ♪ Margaret Soltan's name won't appear on the *Bugle's* masthead for this coming year. She has a year-long sabbatical from her job in the English department at George Washington University, and is moving to Rehoboth Beach for a few months, where she'll work on various writing projects.
- ♪ Stop by to see Jane Salomon's watercolors at Penn Place. She has done something new with watercolors and quilting.
- ♪ If you are wondering why there are new crossing people at Strathmore and Kenilworth on school days, we just learned that crossing guard Betty has retired. The school is planning to do something for her and will keep the town informed. Shhh. It will probably be a surprise. You will be kept posted.

Donal McLaughlin Place

On Saturday July 26, many of Donal McLaughlin's friends gathered at the corner of Weymouth and Oxford streets in Garrett Park to celebrate Donal's 101st birthday. The unveiling of a new street sign, which designates the 10700 block of Weymouth Street as Donal McLaughlin Place, was performed by Donal and one-week-old baby Harris, assisted by her mother Dawn. The baby is Garrett Park's youngest and Donal is Garrett Park's most senior citizen. The sign also displays the United Nations emblem, which Donal designed in 1945. Mayor Chris Keller made some brief remarks and introduced Will Davis, Director of the United Nations Office in Washington, DC, who brought greetings from the Secretary General and informed the crowd that there was a display on exhibit at the UN headquarters in New York celebrating the creation of the emblem, and its designer. Bryan McLaughlin read a letter to Donal written by Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. Michael Speker, who had the idea for the street sign, joined the crowd to celebrate the occasion and enjoy a special cake, cookies, iced tea, and punch. Donal concluded the celebration with a few remarks of thanks.

Obituary

Donn Mader, Garrett Park Mayor from 1978 to 1982, died peacefully at home with family present on June 8, 2008, after a brief few months' precipitous decline in health due likely to pancreatic cancer. He was the beloved husband for 57 years of Millie Mader of Keswick Street; father of Scott Mader (m. Rita Weeks) in Leesville, South Carolina, and Douglas Mader (m. Mandi Chapman Parker) of Rokeby Avenue; grandfather to six. All chairs were filled for a celebration of his life on June 14 at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, which Donn and Millie helped found 55 years ago.

Approaching barbershop chorus officer status, Dad wrote the following brief history, which summarizes his life pretty well.

He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Douglas Mader

Donn Mader, in His Own Words

Name: Donald W. Mader

Nickname: Donn

Current Hometown: Garrett Park, MD

I've been a barbershopper since 1995 [Hometowne USA chorus in Montgomery County]

I was born in Passaic, NJ, in 1926. Since then I have lived in Paterson, NJ, Hawthorne, NJ, Taunton, MA, Columbia, SC, Charlotte, NC, Washington, DC [Garrett Park Estates] and since 1956 in Garrett Park, MD, except for two years in Rot (that's pronounced Roat), Germany, a small town near Heidelberg.

We had three sons, but our firstborn [Steve] was killed by a hit-and-run driver in Florida in 1977. We also have five grandsons and one granddaughter.

I attended Georgia Tech, the University of Maryland, and the George Washington University.

Since 1976 I have been self-employed, repairing or making things in people's houses and as a bonded locksmith. Basically I do the things husbands and fathers should do but don't know how or have the time or are not present.

Before that I was an Operations Research Analyst with the Johns Hopkins University Operations Research Office and with the Bureau of Standards [and an engineer with the Bureau of Ships].

Earlier I had been an electronics research worker and an NBC Studio Engineer.

When the sergeant took my glasses and said, "Walk up until you can read the E," I knew I was not going to have any military service.

I was a child violin player, I've sung in a church choir for more than 40 years (went from Tenor to Second Bass), play recorders, and, unfortunately, only recently became a barbershopper.

Besides singing I'm reasonably good at participating in and leading groups—from being President of the Student Chapter of the Institute of Radio Engineers and Junior Class Student representative at Georgia Tech to Member and Chairman of the Montgomery County Health Services Planning Board, to service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Community Television, to President of the Garrett Park Citizens Association, to Council Member and Mayor of the Town of Garrett Park.

I am most proud of being married to the same wonderful woman for more than 57 years and for being Mayor when Garrett Park declared itself the world's first Nuclear-Free Municipality.

I've visited all the states that border the Atlantic Ocean plus Illinois, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. I've lived in Germany and while there visited Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Holland, England, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.

The wildest thing I ever did was to be in a 4-foot-deep trench about 2000 yards from ground zero during an atomic bomb test. My wife and father were also present at atomic bomb tests.

My most embarrassing moment was when I drove the wrong way around a roundabout in London.

If you'd asked me what I think about Time Share Ownership, I'd have answered that I think it's a great idea. It has permitted my wife and me to visit (usually for a week at a time) many places we would never have gone to or just seen fleetingly.

**GROSVENOR
MARKET**
9-9 MONDAY-SATURDAY
9-7 SUNDAY

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The map shows a street grid. A vertical street on the left is labeled 'Strathmore Ave.'. A vertical street in the center is labeled 'Tuckerman Lane'. A horizontal street at the top is labeled 'Rockville Pike'. A horizontal street at the bottom is labeled 'Grosvenor Place'. A small square labeled '10401' is located on Rockville Pike between Tuckerman Lane and Grosvenor Place. An arrow points to this square with the label 'Market'. Above the Rockville Pike line, near Tuckerman Lane, is the label 'Grosvenor Metro'.

Community Coffeehouses

Before the more hectic days of fall are upon us, mark your calendars for two upcoming free community coffeehouses presented by the Garrett Park Casual Musicians club on Saturday, September 20, and Saturday, November 1, from 7 to 10:30 pm at the Town Hall.

The September 20 Coffeehouse will mark the fifth anniversary of Garrett Park's first Coffeehouse (held on September 20, 2003, during the power outage caused by Hurricane Isabel) and will feature some favorite performances from over the years, some with new arrangements and instruments.

"Change" will be the theme of the November 1 Coffeehouse, as the election will be only three days ahead. The audience will have numerous opportunities to join the musicians in song.

The Coffeehouses have evolved over the last five years as the musicians have grown musically and new performers have joined. Past Coffeehouses have included an eclectic mix of music including pop, jazz, standards, country, classical guitar, blues, and folk.

What hasn't changed is the informal, family-friendly atmosphere. The first hour (7 to 8 pm) is geared towards kids of all ages and includes some children performing either solo or with adults. Enjoy food and drinks provided by the musicians or bring your own. Alcoholic beverages are permitted. Admission is free.

Interested in the Casual Musicians?

The GP Casual Musicians club consists of over 25 of your neighbors and friends in Garrett Park, Garrett Park Estates/White Flint Park, and surrounding communities. Since most participants have full nonmusical lives, this group provides a casual and welcoming forum for community members to express themselves musically. New participants from Garrett Park and the greater GP community are always welcome. Jam sessions are held two or three times each month—on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays—at the GP Town Hall, from 8 to 11 pm. Come join in some Thursday night! For more information about the club, or about these particular events, please contact either David Meredith or Karen Cole.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov/

What Is Lunch Bunch?

The new season for Lunch Bunch began Tuesday, September 9, with a delightful potluck luncheon. Lunch Bunch is an informal gathering of both men and women, a time to socialize with your neighbors and to get to know new people in town. We welcome all residents and those who have moved away but would like to come visit.

Lunch Bunch, originated in 1978 by Anna-vieve Abrams, Kitty Barclay, Marguerite Murray, Peg Norman, Barbara Shidler, and others in the Women's Club, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

So mark your calendars for the second Tuesday of every month from September to June for a glass of wine or juice at 12:30 pm and lunch at 1 pm. No need to call ahead—simply bring a dish to share, plus \$1.50 per person to cover beverages and paper goods. If you need a ride, please call Elizabeth in the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Oh, and bring along a newcomer, neighbor, or friend who's never been. See you there!

Millie Mader and Elizabeth Henley

Pot Luck at Movie Night

To get everyone in the mood for November, on October 17 the Garrett Park Film Society is showing *Election*, a 1999 Academy Award nominated comedy with Matthew Broderick and Reese Witherspoon (103 minutes; rated R for sexual content).

In one of her early starring roles, Reese Witherspoon plays Tracy Flick, an ambitious high school senior who will do anything to get elected class president. She is a shoo-in until civics teacher Jim McAllister (Matthew Broderick) decides she should have some competition in the form of the school's football hero, Paul Metzler. Paul's lesbian sister Tammy also enters the race when her girlfriend accepts a date with Paul. Then the fun begins. Who will win? It's a toss-up—Tracy with her Karl Rove style campaign tactics? Paul with his personal charisma? Or Tammy with her appeal to anarchy?

Given the setting for the film (Kansas), a pot luck dinner (our second annual) seems appropriate. So bring a dish (main course, salad, or dessert) and eat for free; otherwise pay \$10 per person (nonalcoholic drinks \$1; beer and wine \$3).

Dinner will be served at 7 pm (bring your dishes by 6:45). Film starts at 8 pm. Admission is free for Film Society members and is \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

Letter from the Mayor

First and foremost, if you are reading this on Friday the 19th, come to the Town Hall to see tonight's premiere Washington-area screening of *Sputnik Mania*, a film based on Garrett Park author Paul Dickson's book, *Sputnik: The Shock of the Century*. You can be part of this historic event by making a donation to the Betsy White Emergency Loan Fund. *Sputnik Mania* has been shown nationwide to critical acclaim. Paul has also generously offered to make copies of his book available for an additional donation to the Fund. Paul will be there to talk about the making of the film, offer behind-the-scenes insights, and sign books. If you miss tonight's screening, a second showing in December is possible; look for later details.

It's been an eventful summer. High on the list of highlights was the honorary dedication of Weymouth Street as "Donal McLaughlin Place" in honor of the 101st birthday of Garrett Park's most senior citizen. Donal, designer of the United Nations emblem, is a cherished resident, and many folks turned out to celebrate, including representatives from the United Nations Washington office and UN Association. Be sure to take a look at the new street sign (suggested by one of Weymouth's newest residents, Michael Spekter) at Weymouth and Oxford.

The Fourth of July celebration was a resounding success—thanks to the Citizens Association,

Matt Stavish, and all who pitched in to help. Summer at the pool was particularly delightful given the mild weather, and of course the skilled and conscientious staff of managers and lifeguards always contributes to the enjoyment of this town treasure. The third annual dog swim brought a certain charming chaos to the end of a splendid pool season.

I want to thank Martin Trocki and others who help improve communication in town, between and among residents, organizations, and the town government. The Garrett Park Mailing List is a particularly useful channel for news, including safety and other alerts. If you are not already on the mailing list but would like to receive the mailings, please drop a line to gpws@garrettpark.org and put "GPML" in the subject line.

Finally, I want to bring a promising development to your attention. As you may know, the town has been a defendant in a lawsuit brought earlier this year. As I write this letter, we have the expectation of going to mediation over the issues in the suit. Discussion with the plaintiff-residents aimed at resolution of the suit is something that the town has consistently sought, including both former Mayor Carolyn Shawaker and me. So we look forward to the prospect of bringing this matter to a mutually agreeable settlement, and being able to return the energies and resources of the many people involved to more affirmative endeavors. Chief among the latter will be a careful review of the current building (zoning) ordinance, with a view to possible changes undertaken through an open, participatory, thoughtful process.

In enjoying the inimitable character of Garrett Park, we all benefit from the efforts of those who have gone before us. We owe it to future generations to be as careful to preserve the town's unique qualities. The Town Council and I invite all residents to contribute to discussion of the rules that determine the future look of Garrett Park.

Chris Keller

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